

Message Text

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64

ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FAA-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 SCI-06 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 COME-00 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7770

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR EPA, FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SENV, PFOR, UK, FR

SUBJ: ANGLO-FRENCH CONCORDE SST PROGRAM

1. WE RECENTLY HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH KEN BILLINGS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONCORDE PROGRAM, DEPT. TRADE AND INDUSTRY, CONCERNING ANGLO-FRENCH CONCORDE PROGRAM. BILLINGS SAID JOINT REVIEW ORDERED LAST SUMMER BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE ON RATE OF PRODUCTION AND AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT FOR MODIFICATIONS TO IMPROVE PAYLOAD, RANGE AND NOISE CHARACTERISTICS OF AIRCRAFT HAD EXPERIENCED SEVERAL DELAYS, LATEST OF WHICH DUE TO NEED FOR REEXAMINATION OF CONCORDE MARKET POTENTIAL IN LIGHT OF IMPACT OF WORLD-WIDE ENERGY PROBLEM. HOWEVER, BILLINGS NOW CONFIDENT THAT MEETING OF BRITISH AND FRENCH AEROSPACE MINISTERS (ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 1973) TO TAKE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF CONCORDE PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. ACCORDING TO BILLINGS, ISSUE MINISTERS WILL DECIDE IS NOT WHETHER PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE BUT RATHER SHAPE AND SIZE OF PROGRAM OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

2. BILLINGS SAID IT HAD BEEN BRITISH/FRENCH INTENTION
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TO BRIEF EPA AND FAA OFFICIALS BEFORE END OF 1973 ON

MODIFICATIONS PLANNED FOR CONCORDE IN HOPE THAT THESE AGENCIES MIGHT THEN TAKE PLANNED CHANGES INTO ACCOUNT WHEN REPORTS AND RULES ARE DRAWN UP WHICH MAY APPLY TO SSTs. HOWEVER, POSTPONEMENT OF AEROSPACE MINISTERS MEETING MADE BRIEFINGS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE UNTIL MINISTERIAL DECISIONS TAKEN NO ONE IN EITHER BRITISH OR FRENCH GOVERNMENTS COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON NATURE OR SCOPE OF CONCORDE CHANGES.

3. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH CONTINUE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT CONCORDE BRIEFING WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL BEFORE EPA AND FAA PUBLISH REPORTS OR PROPOSED RULES ON SSTs. ACCORDINGLY, BILLINGS REQUESTED, IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE, THAT THESE AGENCIES DEFER ISSUANCE OF REPORTS OR RULES UNTIL AFTER MARCH MEETING OF MINISTERS WHEN BRITISH AND FRENCH TEAMS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE FULL AND COMPLETE PRESENTATION ON FUTURE CONCORDE PROGRAM.

4. COMMENT. AS WE SEE IT, BRITISH AND FRENCH CONCERN AT THIS STAGE IS BASICALLY OF A PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE NATURE. THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY WHICH MIGHT BE AVOIDED IF US AGENCIES HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION ON PLANNED CONCORDE MODIFICATIONS BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF NOISE PROPOSALS. BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE BRITISH AND FRENCH ATTACH TO CONCORDE PROJECT AND HENCE THE SENSITIVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS PROJECT HAS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS, WE RECOMMEND US AGENCIES CONCERNED TRY TO ACCOMMODATE BRITISH/FRENCH ON TIMING FOR PUBLIC PROPOSALS. WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT, EPA AND FAA ON THIS MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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